

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Before the first line, kindly insert the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Appln. No. 09/501,981, filed February 11, 2000, incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the last full paragraph on page 7 with the following new paragraph:

Specifically, in Figure 4, Luer-type adaptor 120a is modified to contain a lumen 150a in communication with a slit 135a. As will be apparent to those of skill in the art, lumen 150a is in communication with second lumen 150 in tubular member 125. Further, slit 135a is in communication with slit 135 in tubular member 125. The modification of balloon dilation catheter 100 illustrated in Figure 4 eliminates the need for having opening 130 disposed in tubular member 125 illustrated in Figure 1. As is clear to the person of ordinary skill in the art, Figure 4 clearly shows that slit 135a is as narrow as slit 135; and Figure 3 clearly shows that slit 135 is narrower than the outside diameter of guidewire 160. Figure 4 also clearly shows that the slit 135a is straight throughout the length of the adapter.

As taught in Horzewski (incorporated herein by reference in the last paragraph of this specification), at Column 3, lines 31-36, and with reference to Figure 1 of Horzewski, radiopaque

marker means is provided in the form of radiopaque bands (27 and 28) which are secured to the tubular member within the balloon near the distal and proximal extremities of the balloon. Suitable material such as gold, tungsten or platinum may be utilized for the bands.

At Column 2, lines 30-68, Horzewski teaches that, in order to achieve the desirable stiffness for the shaft, the tubular member may be formed so that it has varying degrees of stiffness with decreasing stiffness towards the distal extremity of the same. The tubular member can be formed of a suitable material such as a polyolefin of various densities. The formation of the tubular member having different outside diameters and/or materials having different stiffnesses can be readily accomplished by extruding the two portions in separate extrusions using the desired ratio of high density and low density materials.

Further, Horzewski teaches at Column 4, lines 16-34 (and with reference to Figure 7 of Horzewski), that if it is desired to provide additional stiffness in the proximal extremity of the tubular member, a mandrel (34) can be inserted into the portion of the lumen (16) proximal of the plug (31) to serve as a stiffener. The mandrel can have suitable dimensions, as for example, a portion having a continuous diameter of approximately 0.020 inches for approximately 98 centimeters of its length from its proximal extremity, with a distal portion having a continuous taper of 10 centimeters tapering down to a final dimension of

approximately 0.012 inches. The mandrel can be utilized for properly positioning a plug in the first lumen and can be left in place to serve as the stiffener. The mandrel can be formed of a suitable material such as stainless steel. If the mandrel is to be used as a stiffener it is preferable to flatten approximately 1 centimeter of the distal top of the mandrel and locate this portion within the plug to secure the mandrel in place.